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Dear Wauconda Resident:

Within the last several months, many of you have experienced a most difficult time as the issue of contamination in your water sources has been investigated. As a fellow resident of Wauconda and as a father, I can understand what a stressful time this must be as your confidence in one of the most basic elements of our existence has been diminished. I am writing you today to make you aware of my involvement with the resolution of this contamination in the Hillcrest Subdivision from the old Wauconda Sand and Gravel Pit.

When this issue arose again earlier this year after negative testing from the Lake County Health Department, I immediately contacted the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to urge them to begin testing of approximately 120 wells as soon as possible and to provide bottled drinking water for those residents whose wells were affected. As you probably know, 81 of the 121 wells that were tested showed elements of the chemical vinyl chloride.

Since the completion of the Phase I testing, my staff has kept constant communication with the USEPA. While I was unable to attend many of the resident meetings because they were held mid-week when I am required to vote in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., my staff was present each time and reported back to me on the meetings. Please do not think that I stopped caring about this problem because I wasn't present. Taking care of the Hillcrest residents is my top priority.

I am appalled to learn of the lack of action by the USEPA. Recently, my staff met with two Wauconda residents who provided an update of what is not occurring at Hillcrest, including the fact that bottled water is not being distributed to those with affected wells. At the writing of this letter to you tonight, I have contacted the USEPA once again to express my utter disdain for their lack of responsiveness to all of the Hillcrest residents. Attached you will find a copy of the letter I sent to the USEPA Administrator Mike Leavitt as well as a copy of the health consultation conducted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. I assure you - I am committed to resolving this matter as soon as possible.

Please know that I will continue to make you aware of the progress of my work, and encourage you to contact my Lake County office at 847.265.9000 to share any feedback you might have.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Crane, M.C.

PMC/mt